

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 613

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the town of Old Washington upon the occasion of its bicentennial.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the town of Old Washington in Rhea County is most deserving of our special recognition as its citizens commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, now a quiet residential community, Old Washington was once a bustling center of commerce and culture, inviting settlers from northeast Tennessee and neighboring states to establish roots in the fertile land lining the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, after early settlers Richard Green Waterhouse and Judge David Campbell discovered the town's prime location, surveyors soon initiated plans for the lots and streets that would frame the Public Square; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a courthouse and jail would lead to Old Washington's honored status as Rhea County's first county seat, evidence of the town's importance in early state history; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a school, Tennessee Academy, would serve to educate and nurture the next generation of citizens and leaders to ensure the continued success of this growing town; and

WHEREAS, the prosperous town of Old Washington would become one of the many casualties of the Civil War, the most tragic and destructive conflict in American history, as violent combat demolished its buildings and many prominent citizens fled the fractured city; and

WHEREAS, with the introduction of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, the county seat moved to Dayton, and Old Washington, cherishing the memory of its antebellum past, withdrew to the pastoral peace in which we find it today; and

WHEREAS, the town of Old Washington is a brilliant symbol of our State's rich history, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine city and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the town of Old Washington in Rhea County for remaining a vital community throughout Tennessee history and gladly join its citizens in the celebration of its bicentennial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.